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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Identical letters dated 11 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our letters regarding the continued use by armed terrorist groups of chemical substances against civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic and the direct involvement of certain States, which are now well-known to all, in providing support, arms and funding to terrorist groups, I should like to convey to you the alarming information that Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and members of the Nusrah Front are modifying Scud missiles, which ISIL had obtained in Iraq. The missiles were taken to the town of Gharibah, Dayr al-Zawr governorate, where they were modified at the Jabisah oil fields administration building. The missiles were then moved to the agricultural centre building in the city of Raqqah.

The missiles were modified by the terrorists Jonas Shelly, an Australian national; Quint Frens, a British national; and the American nationals Blair (nicknamed Abu Ahmad) and "Mitsu". Those terrorists worked under the supervision and command of the ISIL terrorists Abdulrazzaq Isa al-Kahilah (from Aleppo governorate) and Bassam al-Rafdan. The operation was funded by the Saudi Arabian terrorists Salibi Khalid Yunis, Faris al-Juwaydan (an officer), Mahmud Dawahi al-Anazi and Turki Jad'an al-Sarhan (nicknamed Abu al-Maghirah). The Turkish terrorist expert Cok Oktay supervised the arming of the missiles with chemical warheads.

Those missiles were recently moved over dirt roads to Qalamun, from where they were taken to the Jarajir area, in accordance with the instructions of the ISIL terrorist organization that the missiles should be aimed at Damascus, particularly the Presidential Palace. ISIL paid large sums of money to carry out this operation, in order to spread panic at this time.

Countering terrorism in its various forms requires a concerted effort by all States that is devoid of the double standards and politicization that currently plague counter-terrorism efforts.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its position that it is important and necessary to unify international counter-terrorism efforts, and to do so in complete cooperation and coordination with the Syrian Government. More than ever, the Security Council must fulfil its responsibilities, under the Charter of the United Nations and pursuant to the Council's own resolutions, including resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), to make all States recognize their legal and treaty obligations and ensure that they honour their undertakings to counter terrorism and cut off its sources of support and funding. The Council must also take appropriate measure to hold those States accountable for their actions.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations